

Stoney, Ericka

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From: Pamela M. [onehouyhnhnm@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, December 07, 2001 11:56 AM
To: ASKDOJ
Subject: USDOJ Comments

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I understand through Reuters that the Microsoft monopoly case is coming to a conclusion. A \$1 billion dollar fine is being imposed - one billion dollars to schools.

On the face of it, this sounds wonderful. I am a teacher. However, this may destroy a rival, and frankly BETTER, but smaller company - APPLE. Apple has a far more stable operating system since the inception of Macintosh. Apple has been the choice for years for graphic designers. The one market share Apple has because they worked very hard to get it is the schools. They got it because Apple sustained the graphics necessary to keep the attention of children.

Historically, Microsoft stole the Windows operating system concept from Apple to begin with. Throughout the years Microsoft has yet to perfect Windows, the Microsoft version of the Apple operating system, to the point where it doesn't "crash".

Apple has always had a more stable design for its operating system. For this reason, schools like it far better - there is less time spent on fixing a computer and more time teaching (teacher has to fix, either during class or after school; ergo important lesson time is lost).

While Apple is filing a brief for consideration by the judge overseeing the case, you have direct access to the prosecutor who will recommend a course of action.

Schools need the continuing use of the Apple Macintosh computers. The ruling to infuse schools with \$1 billion of Microsoft hardware/software will destroy Apple; Apple will lose its primary market. Schools will lose the operating system that takes less teacher intervention to fix. The computers, then, will not be used, nullifying the whole point. Teachers simply cannot and will not stop every lesson 14 times to fix the "crashes" of an unreliable operating system.

Please, discuss the impact of this ruling on the social good of American school children. Frankly, I think it would be better to either allocate the billion to getting the elderly of our society online or building schools for the children of Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

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